

NEWS RELEASE

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Anjali Julka
Phone: 312.793.9635

Vicki Niederhofer
Phone: 618.277.8491

Unemployment Rates Increase in All Metro Areas

Illinois continues to lag behind nation in job growth despite jobs increase

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	February 2016	February 2015	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	6.3%	5.0%	1.3
Carbondale-Marion	7.2%	6.0%	1.2
Champaign-Urbana	6.2%	5.4%	0.8
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	6.7%	6.5%	0.2
Danville	8.4%	7.4%	1.0
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	6.8%	6.1%	0.7
Decatur	8.2%	7.4%	0.8
Elgin	7.1%	6.4%	0.7
Kankakee	8.1%	7.4%	0.7
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	6.7%	6.1%	0.6
Peoria	8.1%	6.7%	1.4
Rockford	8.0%	7.2%	0.8
Springfield	6.3%	5.7%	0.6
St. Louis (IL-Section)	7.2%	6.4%	0.8
Illinois Statewide	7.0%	6.5%	0.5

* Data subject to revision.

CHICAGO—Unemployment rates increased in all of the metro areas compared to last year, according to preliminary data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). The increase in the unemployment rate in most metropolitan areas is partially due to more people looking for work.

“Illinois’ overall job growth rate remains among the slowest in the country and metro area unemployment rates continue to rise, even with an increase in jobs in February,” said IDES Director Jeff Mays. “Structural reforms will provide the resources we need to more effectively build a stronger workforce and help communities towards achieving economic stability.”

Illinois businesses added jobs in eight metros, in which the largest increases were seen in: Lake-Kenosha (+2.3 percent, +8,800), Rockford (+2.1 percent, +3,100), and Champaign (+1.9, +2,000). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division increased (+1.7 percent or +62,100). Illinois businesses lost jobs in six metro areas including Bloomington (-1.9 percent, -1,800), the Quad Cities (-1.2 percent, -2,100), and Carbondale-Marion (-0.9 percent, -500). The industry

sectors recording job growth in the majority of metros were: Retail (11 of 14), Education and Health Services (11 of 14), Government (10 of 14), Leisure and Hospitality (nine of 14), Professional and Business Services (eight of 14), and Other Services (eight of 14).

Not seasonally adjusted data compares February 2016 with February 2015. The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 7.0 percent in February 2016 and stood at 12.2 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Nationally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.2 percent in February 2016 and 10.6 percent in January 2010 at its peak. The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and looking for work, and is not tied to collecting unemployment insurance benefits.

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – February 2016

Metropolitan Area	February 2016*	February 2015**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	93,500	95,300	-1,800
Carbondale-Marion MSA	56,400	56,900	-500
Champaign-Urbana MSA	109,800	107,800	2,000
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,623,500	3,561,400	62,100
Danville MSA	29,000	29,200	-200
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	177,800	179,900	-2,100
Decatur MSA	49,900	50,200	-300
Elgin Metro Division	250,600	246,100	4,500
Kankakee MSA	44,600	43,800	800
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	397,100	388,300	8,800
Peoria MSA	175,000	175,600	-600
Rockford MSA	150,700	147,600	3,100
Springfield MSA	111,400	110,000	1,400
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	234,000	230,000	4,000
Illinois Statewide	5,888,100	5,819,900	68,200

*Preliminary **Revised

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**Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates
(percent) for Local Counties and Areas**

	Feb. 2016	Feb. 2015	Over-the- year Change
IL Section of St. Louis	7.2%	6.4%	+0.8
Bond	7.2%	5.9%	+1.3
Calhoun	9.1%	8.0%	+1.1
Clinton	6.3%	5.1%	+1.2
Jersey	7.4%	6.8%	+0.6
Macoupin	7.9%	6.9%	+1.0
Madison	7.2%	6.3%	+0.9
Monroe	5.4%	4.8%	+0.6
St. Clair	7.3%	6.8%	+0.5
Cities:			
Alton	8.3%	8.6%	-0.3
Belleville	7.4%	6.5%	-0.9
Collinsville	7.4%	6.4%	-1.0
East St. Louis	10.6%	10.8%	-0.2
Edwardsville	5.5%	4.6%	+0.9
Granite City	9.6%	7.1%	+2.5
O'Fallon	6.2%	5.6%	+0.6
Counties:			
Greene	7.7%	6.7%	+1.0
Randolph	6.3%	5.9%	+0.4
Washington	4.9%	4.3%	+0.6
Other Areas:			
LWA 21	7.8%	6.8%	+1.0
LWA 22	7.2%	6.2%	+1.0
LWA 24	6.8%	6.2%	+0.6
Southwestern Economic Development Region	7.0%	6.3%	+0.7

Metro East Highlights

Help Wanted

Area employers advertised for 6,000 openings in February and approximately 85 percent sought full-time employment, according to Help Wanted OnLine data compiled by the Conference Board. It is a global, independent business membership and research association. Employers actually need more workers than the help wanted ad indicates because some industries, such as construction, typically do not advertise job openings.

The February 2016 unemployment rate for the Illinois Section of the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area was 7.2 percent, an increase of (+0.8) from February 2015. The data is not seasonally adjusted.

The number of employed individuals increased by 3,956 to 321,522 in February 2016 from 317,566 in February 2015. The labor force increased by 7,053 to 346,289 in February 2016 from 339,236 in February 2015. In February 2016, there were 24,767 unemployed people in the labor force. This is an increase of 3,097, compared to the February 2015 total unemployed, 21,670.

Over the year, nonfarm payrolls increased by (+4,000). Employment increased in Retail Trade (+1,300), Educational and Health Services (+900), Leisure and Hospitality (+900), Professional and Business Services (+700), Mining and Construction (+500), Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities (+400), Other Services (+200), Wholesale Trade (+100), Information (+100), and Financial Activities (+100).

Manufacturing (-1,200) posted job losses while Government payrolls showed no change.

Note:

- Monthly 2015 unemployment rates and total non-farm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February and March 2016, as required by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Comments and tables distributed for prior metro area news releases should be discarded as any records or historical analysis previously cited may no longer be valid.
- LWA— Local Workforce Area 21 is composed of Calhoun, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, Morgan, Scott and Shelby Counties.
LWA— Local Workforce Area 22 is composed of Bond and Madison Counties.
LWA— Local Workforce Area 24 is composed of Clinton, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair and Washington Counties.

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